

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members, I want to thank Senator Dierks, Senator Rogers, Senator Schellpeper for their support for this resolution. Lincoln is obviously excited about the possibility of bringing the Special Olympics to town. It would be a great thing for the city, a great thing for the state and I appreciate the widespread support for this resolution.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lynch, please, then Senator Korshoj.

SENATOR LYNCH: Mr. President and members, it's really appropriate that an event as important as this take place in Nebraska. In case some of you have forgotten, please don't forget that Nebraska was the leader in developing alternative programs especially as it applies to MR and mental health. In fact, not only in this country, but across the world Nebraska is recognized as the first state to start local alternative programs. When people in institutions numbered in the thousands, even in Nebraska, they now number in the hundreds. Those people are being cared for and treated in local programs as well as by the state and I think it is especially appropriate because we offer these alternatives, because we were the first in the country, at least, to do this, that this kind of an event be held here. So remember what a good job you did in the past. We're glad to have this kind of a program in the state.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.) We're awfully noisy this morning. Let's try to hold it down. Senator Korshoj, please.

SENATOR KORSHOJ: Mr. President and members, just for the record I want to wholeheartedly support this program. It's ironic that just Saturday I sent the Nebraska Special Olympics \$100. I've always supported it and the more we can do for it, the better we are as people and as a state. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Peterson, please.

SENATOR PETERSON: Mr. President and members, I, too, rise to support this resolution and I commend those that introduced it. Every year I take off time when they have the Special Olympics in Norfolk and my wife and I do participate and help out for a while there, at least a couple hours, and it is really an eye opener to watch these people in the Special Olympics and how enthusiastic they get and how rewarding it is for me and my wife to be there and help them participate, and I wholeheartedly